

able to protect themselves from predation. Though these turtles can close their shell, the weakest part is apparently the hind limb flaps (Auffenberg 1981) and the bill of the scavenger vulture is very narrow, long and is easily inserted into the narrow, slit-like aperture of the flaps over the hind limbs, tearing off their flesh. No longer able to move, even if offered an opportunity to do so, the turtle slowly dies, (Auffenberg 1981). In the present observations, as the hind limbs were missing, the possible reasons for this might be the attempts of pre-

dators, and during this process, the predator must have left the turtle owing to some disturbance and if so, probably the first part attacked by the predator was the right hind limb.

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BNHS ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTRE,
331, RAJENDRA NAGAR,
BHARATPUR-321 001, RAJASTHAN,
May 22, 1987.

GEORGE M. JOHN

REFERENCE

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26. FAT-TAILED GECKO (*EUBLEPHARIS MACULARIUS* BLYTH)
CAPTURED FROM A QUARRY

On 1.v.1984 one adult fat-tailed gecko (*Eublepharis macularius* Blyth) was captured by a quarry-man after blasting in the quarry at 1600 hrs. at village Tatarpur (27° 47' N; 76° 31' E) in Alwar District. He tied the gecko to a branch of *Leptadenia spartium* and brought it to me at the Forest Nursery at Tatarpur to identify the animal. Actually he wanted to know whether it was poisonous.

I readily recognized it from its attractive coloration. It produced a squeaky mechanical

noise by sudden sideways jerks of the head.

After its identification, I released the animal in our forest area. Then I went to the quarry and bagged two more adult individuals from the same old deep quarry.

The area is hilly with sparse vegetation of *Adhatoda vasica*, *Rhus mysurensis* etc. Earlier, a dense deciduous type of forest was present here but at present there are only denuded hills.

FOREST EXTENSION OFFICER,
VAN CHETNA KENDRA,
GULAB BAGH,
UDAIPUR-313 001,
RAJASTHAN,
September 10, 1987.

SATISH KUMAR SHARMA